# Career Plan for First-Year Students

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<th>When?</th>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Why?</th>
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| **As soon as Possible!** | Visit the Career Development Center (CDC) at the Project Center (1st Floor) and explore our services. Review TipSheets, and visit the CDC lobby library to view resources | • Familiarize yourself with CDC resources and staff  
• Gain a better understanding of your major and possible career paths |
| | Use your Handshake account to explore internships, co-op, and part-time jobs posted for WPI students | • Gain access to jobs, co-ops, internships, resources, podcasts and tip sheets, as well as additional resources for self-assessment and researching careers. |
| **Throughout the year but the sooner the better!** | Start building your resume and begin writing cover letters with guidance from CDC workshops, Handshake, TipSheets, and/or assistance from CDC staff via drop ins | • Prepare for Career Fairs  
• Apply to internships, work study and part-time jobs  
• Start thinking about your IQP application |
| | Attend company information sessions (keep an eye out for these events via the Handshake “Events” tab and weekly emails) | • Learn about careers, full time and part time jobs, summer internships, co-ops and network with professionals |
| | Participate in informational interviews with upper class students, faculty, employers and alumni | • Explore your interests and learn about career paths for your major |
| **A TERM** | ATTEND THE FALL CAREER FAIR!! | • Find a summer internship/job, or co-op for spring of Sophomore Year  
• Learn about jobs  
• Meet/network with WPI alumni and employers |
| **A/B TERM** | Register for FY 1800: Discovering Majors and Careers course in A or B Term if you are undecided about your major, trying to decide between 2-3 majors, or looking to learn more about your major | • Learn about WPI majors/careers  
• Take inventories and assessments to learn more about interests, skills, and values  
• Compare/contrast majors of interest  
• Speak with upperclassmen and alumni about majors of interest |
| **C TERM** | ATTEND THE SPRING CAREER FAIR!! | • Find a summer internship/job  
• Learn about jobs  
• Meet/network with WPI alumni |
| **D TERM** | Continue searching for internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs. | • Find a summer internship/job  
• Learn about jobs  
• Meet/network with WPI alumni and employers  
• Attend Project Presentation Day to see senior MQPs and learn more about majors of interest  
• Volunteer to gain additional skills |
| **D TERM/ SUMMER** | Visit the CDC to incorporate the past year’s projects and jobs/internship/activities onto your resume | • To hit the ground running in August and to begin searching for next year’s summer internship or co-op |

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**Career Development Center**  
Project Center  
508-831-5260 | cdc@wpi.edu  
wpi.edu/+cdc  
facebook.com/cdcatwpi  
youtube.com/cdcatwpi  
@cdcatwpi  
wp.wpi.edu/cdc  
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